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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Statement by the Honorable Doc Hastings**  
**Before the Committee on Resources**  
**Subcommittee on Water and Power**  
**September 27, 2005**

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for holding today's hearing on several important water-related bills. I wanted to briefly mention one of them -- H.R. 1564, the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District Conveyance Act of 2005.

The committee will hear later this morning from Mr. Rick Dieker, the manager of the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District. Rick is well-known for his leadership on water issues in our region, and I am pleased he was able to join us in Washington today.

Very simply, my legislation would allow a long-awaited transfer of property from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District to take effect. The transfer involves the conveyance of approximately nine acres of federal property as well as a few associated structures. These facilities are already dedicated to purposes related to the irrigation district, but the Bureau is no longer interested in their day to day management and upkeep. The irrigation district is ready and able to take care of these properties. This conveyance will allow them to use district funds to make needed improvements. It is my understanding that the Administration is also supportive of this legislation, which will allow the Bureau to focus its limited resources where they are needed most. In my view, this is an example of local problem-solving at its best.

I commend the staff of the irrigation district and the Bureau of Reclamation for their efforts to reach this agreement. I know that they have been working on this for several years now. The hearing today is another important step in this process. I thank the committee for including my bill on the agenda today.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of the panelists here this morning.